

Date of Meeting: July 18, 2023

R-1

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE**

SUBJECT: Proclamation to Recognize Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day in Loudoun County

2011 ELECTION DISTRICT(S): Countywide

2022 ELECTION DISTRICT(S): Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: July 18, 2023

STAFF CONTACT(S): Matt Rogers, Chief of Staff to Chair Randall
Yolanda Pensmith, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Glass
Griffin Cook, Intern to Supervisor Glass

PURPOSE: To recognize July 26, 2023, as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day in Loudoun County.

RECOMMENDATION(S): Chair Randall and Supervisor Glass recommend approval of the attached proclamation to recognize July 26, 2023, as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day in Loudoun County.

BACKGROUND: July 26, 2023, marks the 33rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA, a civil rights law, is designed to affirm and protect the rights of people with disabilities, enabling them to fully participate in public life. This landmark legislation has played a crucial role in bringing America closer to its promise of equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for the 61 million individuals with disabilities in our country.

The ADA encompasses several key provisions aimed at eliminating disability discrimination and promoting inclusivity. It mandates that State and local governments are prohibited from engaging in such discrimination. Additionally, the ADA establishes accessibility standards for places of public accommodation, ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equal access to these spaces. Furthermore, the law safeguards people with disabilities from discriminatory practices in the workplace, guaranteeing their right to equal employment opportunities.

Moreover, the ADA ensures that individuals with disabilities have equal access to healthcare, social services, transportation, and telecommunications. By breaking down barriers and promoting

accessibility across these vital domains, the ADA helps to foster a more inclusive society that values and respects the rights and needs of all its citizens.

As we commemorate the 33rd Anniversary of the ADA, we acknowledge the significant progress made in advancing the rights of people with disabilities. Nevertheless, we also recognize that there is still work to be done to ensure full equality and inclusivity. The ADA serves as a constant reminder of the ongoing commitment needed to build a society that embraces diversity and provides equal opportunities for everyone, regardless of their abilities.

DRAFT MOTION:

1. I move that the Board of Supervisors approve the Proclamation to Recognize July 26, 2023, as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day in Loudoun County, provided as Attachment 1 to the July 18, 2023, Board of Supervisors Business Meeting Action Item.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proclamation Recognizing July 26, 2023, as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day in Loudoun County.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, establishing a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS The ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing opportunities for full participation and inclusion in community life; and

WHEREAS Continued commitment to the principles of the ADA is necessary to help individuals with disabilities reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS On July 26, 2023, our county, state, and nation will commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, recognizing and celebrating the progress that has been made; and

WHEREAS Loudoun County encourages people to reaffirm the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility laid out in the ADA and recommit our efforts to reach full ADA compliance so that every person in our county has the opportunity to succeed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim July 26, 2023, as

Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day

in Loudoun County and urges all residents in Loudoun County to celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities and support the value and talent people with disabilities add to our community.

Phyllis J. Randall, Chair At-Large

Koran T. Saines, Vice Chair, Sterling District

Sylvia R. Glass, Broad Run District

Juli E. Briskman, Algonkian District

Michael R. Turner, Ashburn District

Tony R. Buffington, Blue Ridge District

Caleb A. Kershner, Catoclin District

Matthew F. Letourneau, Dulles District

Kristen C. Umstattd, Leesburg District

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
July 18, 2023

